

# DECEMBER CONTEMPLATION

*Blood of Christ, most worthy of all glory and honor, have mercy on us.*

## Opening Hymn

*Eucharistic Exposition*

### Leader:

May this time of prayer and adoration before the Blessed Sacrament be a precious opportunity to grow in awareness of the incomparable treasure which Christ has entrusted to his Church.

### *Silent Reflection*

*We pray that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord.*

## Prayer for the Year of Mercy

### All:

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the visible face of the invisible Father, of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy. May your church, with renewed enthusiasm, bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind. We ask this through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy, you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen.

### Scripture Reading:

*(1 Chronicles 29:10-13)*

So David blessed the LORD in the sight of all the assembly; and David said, "Blessed are You, O LORD God of Israel our father, forever and ever.

Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Yours is the dominion, O LORD, and You exalt Yourself as head over all. Both riches and honor come from You, and You rule over all, and in Your hand is power and might; and it lies in Your hand to make great and to strengthen everyone.

Now therefore, our God, we thank You, and praise Your glorious name.

The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### Responsorial Psalm

*(Psalm 97:1-7)*

**Response: The Lord is king; let the earth rejoice.**

I will exalt you, my God and King,  
and praise your name forever and ever.

I will praise you every day; yes, I will praise you forever. **R/.**

Great is the Lord! He is most worthy of praise!

No one can measure his greatness.

Let each generation tell its children of your mighty acts;  
let them proclaim your power. **R/.**

I will meditate on your majestic, glorious splendor  
and your wonderful miracles.

Your awe-inspiring deeds will be on every tongue;  
I will proclaim your greatness. **R/.**

Everyone will share the story of your wonderful goodness;  
they will sing with joy about your righteousness. **R/.**

**Glory Be...**

## **Reflection**

*(Catechism, #1469)*

This sacrament reconciles us with the Church. Sin damages or even breaks fraternal communion. The sacrament of Penance repairs or restores it. In this sense it does not simply heal the one restored to ecclesial communion, but has also a revitalizing effect on the life of the Church which suffered from the sin of one of her members. (*1 Cor 12:26*) Re-established or strengthened in the communion of saints, the sinner is made stronger by the exchange of spiritual goods among all the living members of the Body of Christ, whether still on pilgrimage or already in the heavenly homeland: (*LG 48-50*)

## **Prayer to be Merciful to Others**

*St. Maria Faustina Kowalska (Diary, 163)*

**All:** O Lord, I want to be completely transformed into Your mercy and to be Your living reflection. May the greatest of all divine attributes, that of Your unfathomable mercy, pass through my heart and soul to my neighbor.

O my Jesus, transform me into Yourself, for You can do all things. May Your mercy, O Lord, rest upon me. Amen.

## ***Silent Reflection***

*Let us keep silence before God – silent within ourselves – that our hearts and ears may be open.*

## **Gospel**

*(Matthew 6:31-34)*

Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## **Meditation**

John Paul II, *Dives in Misericordia*, 6

### **THE PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON**

#### **Particular Concentration on Human Dignity**

Conversion is the most concrete expression of the working of love and of the presence of mercy in the human world. The true and proper meaning of mercy does not consist only in looking, however penetratingly and compassionately, at moral, physical or material evil: mercy is manifested in its true and proper aspect when it restores to value, promotes and draws good from all the forms of evil existing in the world and in man. Understood in this way, mercy constitutes the fundamental content of the messianic message of Christ and the constitutive power of His mission. His disciples and followers understood and practiced mercy in the same way. Mercy never ceased to reveal itself, in their hearts and in their actions, as an especially creative proof of the love which does not allow itself to be “conquered by evil,” but overcomes “evil with good.” (cf *Romans 12:21*) The genuine face of mercy has to be ever revealed anew. In spite of many prejudices, mercy seems particularly necessary for our times.

## **A Christmas Prayer**

God of love, Father of all, the darkness that covered the earth has given way to the bright dawn of your Word made flesh. Make us a people of this light. Make us faithful to your Word that we may bring your life to the waiting world. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **Intentions**

### **Leader:**

Let us pray together the Daily Offering with the intentions of the Holy Father and our personal intentions:

*R/. Lord, hear our prayer.*

### **All:**

Eternal Father, we offer you in union with Mary, Mother of the Redeemer of humankind, the Blood Jesus shed with love in his passion and every day is offered on the altar. In union with the Victim offered for the salvation of the world, we offer today's actions in expiation for our sins, for the conversion of sinners, for the souls in purgatory, for the needs of the holy Church, and especially:

For the Holy Father's **Universal Intention:** That the scandal of child-soldiers may be eliminated the world over, we pray. *R/.*

For the Holy Father's **Intention for Evangelization:** That the peoples of Europe may rediscover the beauty, goodness, and truth of the Gospel which gives joy and hope to life, we pray. *R/.*

That the media may become a force to safeguard the common good, to uphold the truth, to protect individual human dignity and promote respect for the needs of the family, we pray. *R/.*

Lord, You have promised to be with your Church always. May the Holy Spirit inspire many more vocations to the priesthood and religious life, we pray. *R/.*

That we may reach out and support those on the fringes of society so they can feel the warmth of our presence, our friendship and our fraternity, we pray. *R/.*

For those who've asked the help of our prayers, for those who have no one to pray for them, and for the intentions we hold in the silence of our hearts, we pray. *R/.*

### **Our Father...**

### *Silent Reflection*

### **Closing Prayer**

#### **All:**

Eternal God, in Whom mercy is endless, and the treasury of compassion inexhaustible, look kindly upon us, and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments, we might not despair, nor become despondent, but with great confidence, submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy Itself. Amen.

### *Benediction and Reposition*

### **Closing Hymn**